

Minutes of DAAC Meeting

Attendance

DAAC members present were: Seren Derin, Chair; Joe Tringali, Vice-chair; Irene Barrelet, Clerk; Gerry Weiss; Jim MacRostie; and Joan Swift;

Others present were Tory Dixon; Alisa Brewer, Select Board Representative; Nathaniel Malloy, DAAC staff liaison.

Absent: Dana Goddard.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Derin called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stavros is sponsoring an event on the Town Common Saturday July 24, 2010, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the passage of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

MINUTES

Minutes from the May 11, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously (5-0) as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Spring Street Improvements

The committee reviewed plans for the proposed Spring Street and Town Common parking lot improvements. The committee agreed that the curb bump outs and addition of formal crosswalks at the intersection of Boltwood Ave and Spring Street would augment pedestrian safety; however, they had the following concerns:

- Moving the handicapped parking in the Spring Street parking lot from the south to the north side increases the distance and number of street crossing to access the Lord Jeffery Inn; it cannot be assumed that everyone who needs an HP space will be dropped off at the Inn, or that the one or two spaces provided by the Inn will serve all the patrons who needs handicapped parking.
- Although wider sidewalks are provided along the Town Common on Spring Street, it is likely that if farmers and vendors pull their vehicles up onto the sidewalk (for the farmer's market), the lane of travel will be narrowed and inaccessible. This could be exacerbated if tents are set-up with their legs and tie anchors on the sidewalk.
- All of the new sidewalks need to be constructed so that they do not easily heave or shift; the existing sidewalks in this area are quite treacherous and not passable by many pedestrians.

The committee intends to submit their concerns and recommendations to the Department of Public Works and the Public Works Committee before the close of the comment period for the project's public hearing.

Other

Town Common—Temporary Sidewalk

It was brought to the committee's attention that the temporary sidewalk installed on the Town Common by Amherst College for the duration of the Lord Jeffery Inn renovation is not the same construction and type approved by the Select Board and recommended by the DAAC. The DAAC, along with the Public Shade Tree Committee, recommended the installation of an elevated 'boardwalk' with a tactile surface. This type of sidewalk would have minimal impacts to the tree roots and with a tactile surface, would be a nonslip surface during inclement weather. Committee member Gerry Weiss volunteered to follow up with this topic.

OLD BUSINESS

Jones Library Parking

Ms. Derin and Ms. Barrelet attended the Jones Library Trustee Meeting on June 1, 2010, to discuss HP parking spaces, in particular, the fact that one space does not meet current dimensional standards; the curb cut makes the unloading aisle unusable for vans or vehicles with a lift. The committee members reported that the Trustees were supportive of retaining two HP spaces with a shared unloading aisle at the Jones Library, and that when the spaces are repainted in the near future, this layout would be enforced with new signs.

The Trustees inquired whether it was legal and/or practical to provide an on-street van accessible parking spot. Mr. Malloy responded that on-street HP parking is difficult in general and unfeasible near the library due to the traffic volume and usage of Amity Street.

Ms. Derin noted that the HP spaces are not deep enough for vans—they protrude into the travel lane partially blocking traffic in the parking lot. She recommended the removal of the grass median between the parking lot and the sidewalk leading to the eastern entrance of the Library. The additional pavement may widen the driveway enough for cars to pull in and out without using the turnaround behind the library, which is usually blocked by illegally parked vehicles.

Curb Cuts and Audible Walk Signals

The committee began the process of identifying and prioritizing intersections that need improvements ranging from restriping the crosswalks to new curb cuts and audible signals. The upshot of prioritizing intersections will be a list with recommendations that can be integrated with DPW and other street improvement projects.

Master Plan and Visitability

Mr. Tringali explained that he is continuing to research visitability in other communities.

Next Meeting(s)

Tuesday August 10, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday September 14, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Nathaniel Malloy, staff liaison